

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules.

I am already disappointed with the handling of Excite@Home to AT&T to Comcast with my cable modem. I should add that I have sent repeated letters to Comcast over specific issues and received NOTHING back. This latest effort by the FCC makes all those frustrations pale by comparison. Do you think that these media conglomerates will somehow be more responsive?

In addition to the anti-trust issues that apply to all corporations and manufacturers, the media have an additional responsibility to bring us all the news that helps us create a healthy democracy. That is, it may be more efficient to have a limited number of widget makers than hundreds of small manufacturers. BUT the media brings us the building blocks that make our country function as a democracy.

I do not wish to see the FCC expand the reach of a limited number of giant media conglomerates, because of the losses that would ensue: far less diversity in opinions in the news; a decreased amount of news time allotted to local news coverage; few people of different ethnic backgrounds and needs represented; and resultingly, less information to the general public about their own area.

I spent some years in the newspaper business as a reporter and I noticed that the larger papers would have only limited news on a specific suburb or neighborhood. The editors of the large paper would then "pad" the local section with stories about other towns or neighborhoods elsewhere. But the smaller paper would have many more stories just about that specific area. Thus, already consolidation is happening within our press and other media. It does not need any further assistance from you!

I earned my bachelor's in journalism at Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. One of the most elemental things freshmen learn is to question your sources. Using data and studies created, engineered and funded by the industry YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO MONITOR is not an independent, verifiable source. You simply must go to independent sources, such as a university and contract separately to do your polling, collect your data and so on.

I understand that the headquarters of our country is in Washington DC and its surrounding environs, and the main meeting is being held in Virginia. Still, there are communication commissions around the country. Surely they could be enlisted to host FCC hearings on the West Coast, in the Heartland and the South so that our views might also be heard? Please let me know the date of the meeting in the Pacific Northwest.

I would prefer the rules not to be changed at this time. But if they must be addressed, then you really need to pull more people into the process.

Sincerely,

Lynn Nakvasil

